

## HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in Georgia. Working in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior and local communities, the SHPO carries out the mandates of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and works to protect the historical, architectural, and archaeological resources of Georgia. Among the HPD's responsibilities are the identification of historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the preservation of these resources through the environmental review program.

The National Register is our country's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. The list is maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior. In Georgia, the National Register program is administered by the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources. To be listed in the National Register, a property must meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. These criteria require that a property be old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old), and be an accurate and relatively unchanged record of what it was in the past. In addition, the property must:

- a) be associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past; or
- b) be associated with the lives of people who were important in the past; or
- c) be significant in the areas of architectural history, landscape history, or engineering; or
- d) have the ability to yield information through archaeological investigation that would answer questions about our past.

The role of HPD in protecting historic resources through the environmental review process originates from Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which states that the head of federal agencies having a direct or indirect jurisdiction over proposed federal or federally assisted undertakings "shall, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any federal funds on the undertaking or the issuance of any license, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register."

The Section 106 process used to review federal undertakings is a five-step process and is outlined in the Advisory Council's regulations contained in 36 CFR Part 800. The HPD provides technical assistance and its comments on undertakings to federal agencies and their applicants on: 1) the National Register eligibility of historic and archaeological resources on the project's area of potential effect, 2) the assessment of the project's effects upon these resources, and 3) possible means to mitigate adverse effects or measures to minimize harm to these resources.

The Georgia Department of Transportation, as administrator of the TE program, has adopted the policy that enhancement projects will not result in adverse effects on historic resources. The project must be designed to avoid an adverse effect. TE projects, which involve rehabilitation of an historic resource, can avoid adverse effects by meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is defined by the Secretary as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values." The Standards can be found on the following page.

The intent of the Standards is to assist in the long-term preservation of a property's significance through the preservation of historic materials and features. The Standards pertain to historic buildings of all materials, construction types, sizes, and occupancy and encompass the exterior and interior of the buildings. They also encompass related landscape features and the building's site and environment, as well as attached, adjacent, or related new construction. For information on the applications of the Standards to your project, contact the Transportation Enhancement Project Review Architect at HPD.

Some properties, usually archaeological sites, may be considered eligible for the NRHP for potential to provide important information about the past. An adverse effect may be avoided by developing a plan to preserve such sites in place.

The necessity for archaeological investigation of your project area can be determined in consultation with the HPD Transportation Enhancement Project Review Archaeologist. HPD can provide literature and technical assistance related to selecting an archaeological consultant and preparing a report, which meets the requirements for compliance with Section 106. For additional information, please see the Archaeological Assessment Guidelines, which follow.

